which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency as an Autonomous Society in July 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan.

Clearance to Upper Krishna State-II Projects

302. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after years of waiting Government have given its technoeconomic clearance to the Upper-Kishna State-II Pojects incluing *Almatti* reservoirs;

(b) if so the details thereof and the estimated cost of the projects; and

(c) the extent of delay suffered for want of such clearance and the cost escalation caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Upper Krishna Stage II Multipurpose Project (Irrigation Portion) with Almatti Dam full reservoir level (FRL) at 519.6 metres has been cleared from techno-economic angle at an estimated cost of Rs. 2849.06 crore for providing annual irrigation to an area of 226688 ha.

(c) There is no escalation in cost due to delay in clearance as the matter regarding height of the Almatti Dam was subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India who gave its Judgement on 25.04.2000

Water Shortage in Rajasthan

303. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of water in Rajasthan for the past one year; and

(b) what are the main causes and the steps taken to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.